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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (CATEGORIES I AND II)

Quadrennial reports 1990-1993

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968

Addendum

* E/C.2/1995/1.

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Note

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) on arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, organizations in consultative status in categories I and II shall submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Secretary-General, every fourth year a brief report of their activities, specifically as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations. Based on findings of the Committee's examination of the report and other relevant information, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in status of the organization concerned as it deems appropriate.

At its 1981 session, the Committee decided that quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations should be limited to no more than two single-spaced pages. At its 1989 session, the Committee stressed the need for non-governmental organizations required to submit quadrennial reports to provide the Secretariat with clear and timely information, including, inter alia, a brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization.

At its 1991 session, the Committee emphasized the need for non-governmental organizations requested to submit quadrennial reports to provide a clear picture of their activities to the United Nations. The Committee further noted that the reports should conform to the guidelines elaborated by the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Committee (see E/1991/20, para. 47). The Committee decided that only those reports elaborated in conformity with the guidelines and submitted to the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit no later than 1 June of the year preceding the Committee's session would be transmitted to the Committee for consideration. The Committee recalled that organizations failing to submit adequate reports on time would be subject to reclassification in status that the Committee might deem appropriate, in conformity with paragraph 40 (b) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) (see E/1991/20, para. 48). Pursuant to these decisions, the Secretariat, in December 1991, communicated to all relevant organizations guidelines for the completion of quadrennial reports.

The material issued in the present series of documents (E/C.2/1995/2 and addenda) has been reproduced as submitted and therefore reflects the policies and terminology of the organizations concerned. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Supplementary material, such as annual reports and samples of publications, is available in the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

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INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRENCH-SPEAKING PARLIAMENTARIANS

(Category I)

The International Assembly of French-Speaking Parliamentarians is an interparliamentary union of francophone countries. It comprises representatives of 45 parliaments. Its major aim is to the francophone consultative assembly. It sees itself as the democratic link between French-speaking institutions and peoples. It is working to spread the use of French throughout the world and would like to reflect the cultural pluralism of the peoples who speak this language. It is a debating chamber for proposals and information exchanges on all subjects of mutual interest to its members. It initiates and implements activities to promote interparliamentary cooperation and democratic development. Its actions are designed to encourage cooperation and strengthen solidarity in respect for the right to development. It also seeks to uphold democracy, the rule of law and individual rights, particularly within the French-speaking community.

Participation in the activities of the Council and its subsidiary organs

Between 1990 and 1993, the International Assembly has followed the work of a number of conferences and meetings organized within the framework of the United Nations and especially within the framework of the Economic and Social Council. Its representative to the Council and the United Nations personally followed most of these meetings. The following may be cited as examples:

(a) The forty-seventh session of the General Assembly (New York, 21 September to 8 October 1992);

(b) The forty-eighth session of the General Assembly (New York, 27 September to 13 October 1993);

(c) The second United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio, 28 May to 14 June 1992);

(d) The UNESCO General Conference;

(e) The Standing Committee of the UNESCO Literary Campaign.

Cooperation with United Nations organs and specialized agencies

The International Assembly follows the work of a number of organs: Committee on Natural Resources, Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and the Pacific and for Africa, UNDP, UNIDO and so on. It has very close relations of information, consultation and cooperation with UNESCO, GATT, FAO, WHO, ILO and the International Education Office of UNESCO. It has worked closely with professional non-governmental organizations, United Nations specialized agencies, francophone regional and national bodies and other international parliamentary assemblies. In particular, it attended:

The eighth international meeting on international languages and cultures and international publications (Paris, February 1990);

The International Conference on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, organized in November 1992 by UNESCO in cooperation with Tunisia;

The International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, organized by UNESCO in Montreal, in cooperation with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights (Montreal, 1993);

The World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, June 1993);

The International Symposium on the French Language and Cultural Pluralism (Paris, May 1990).

The meetings of the International Assembly have always been attended by several representatives of these bodies.

Other activities

Visit by members of the Bureau of the Cultural Affairs Commission of the International Assembly to United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 4 and 5 March 1992.

Talks with: the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources; the Assistant Secretary-General for Conference Services; the French-speaking Ambassadors; the Chief of the United Nations NGO Unit.

Renewal of the nomination of an Assembly representative to the NGO Committee of the Council.

Visit by members of the Cultural Affairs Commission to the United Nations centre at Geneva (April 1992).

Information on United Nations activities, implementation of United Nations resolutions and support for action plans.

The International Assembly often prepares its action programme in the light of United Nations activities. Its review Parlements et Francophonie carries regular reports on such activities and has a wide international circulation.

A number of its events, meetings and missions have been based on United Nations discussion topics.

We have also held a number of symposia. In recent years, these have discussed women in parliamentary life, space and computers and Parliament and its image. In 1990 we organized a symposium on the question of Lebanese hospitals destroyed during the war. As a result, a large-scale humanitarian project was launched to rehabilitate six hospital centres.

The International Assembly transmits regularly to Governments and international bodies its documents and reports and the resolutions elaborated at its general meetings. These include the resolutions adopted by the International Assembly at its eighteenth and nineteenth plenary sessions, held, respectively, at Ottawa in September 1991 and in Libreville in June-July 1993.

Resolutions in the cultural field

Africa and television, prospects for developing TV 5 Africa;

Cultural support that the South may give to the North;

Obstacles impeding the dissemination of French books, magazines and newspapers in the Francophone countries;

The importance of French in international organizations;

The status of French and access to diplomatic careers;

The use of French at the Olympic games;

French, language of technology and telecommunications.

Resolutions designed to promote democracy, human rights and freedoms, and parliamentary cooperation

Freedoms and political rights;

Development of interparliamentary cooperation;

Restructuring of documentary services of parliaments;

Parliaments and communications;

Support for the renewal of parliamentary democracy throughout the world.

Resolutions aimed at cooperation and development

Aid to Lebanon;

Decentralized international library for cooperation projects;

Charter for sustainable development;

Earth Charter;

Women and sustainable development.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS (IADL)

(Category II)

Introduction

The Association's basic objectives are laid down in article 2 of its statutes. They are inter alia: to cooperate in the achievement of the aims set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and to ensure joint action by lawyers aimed at:

1. Encouraging the legal study and practice of principles favouring the maintenance of peace and cooperation between nations;

2. Restoring, defending and developing in legislation and practice democratic rights and freedoms;

3. Promoting the independence of all peoples and opposing any restriction on such independence in legislation and practice.

Three regional non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are affiliated to IADL. They are the Union of Arab Lawyers, the Union of Arab Jurists and the American Association of Lawyers. In early 1994, the headquarters of the IADL secretariat was transferred provisionally from Brussels to Algiers (9 Blvd. Zirout Youcef, 16000 Alger Centre, Algeria; tel: (213.2) 73-75-33, 78-59-47; fax: (213.2) 73-49-99).

Participation in United Nations activities within the framework of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO)

The Association is an active member of CONGO and has twice been elected a member of the Bureau. It takes part in all the activities of CONGO in all fields.

Activities on its own account

1. It has taken part regularly in all the sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and its sub-commission and on each occasion has submitted several examples of serious violations. It has conducted special campaigns against exploitation, prostitution and the sale of children. For a long time, it acted alone in denouncing and bringing to the attention of United Nations bodies the criminal practice of traffic in body organs.

2. The Association has also taken an interest in the problem of compensating those who have had their human rights violated, of the impunity of their perpetrators, administrative detention, forced disappearances, summary executions and religious intolerance. On these issues, the representative of IADL has had numerous talks with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

3. The Association has often taken part in Conference preparatory meetings and in regional symposia such as the one on the question of Palestine. It attended the eighth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990. It was represented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. It participated in the Geneva preparatory meetings and in the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 14-25 June 1993). A member of the Association was in Tunis for the African regional conferences and at Bangkok for the Asian regional conferences. It played an active role in the preparation and the holding of the NGO Forum on Human Rights.

4. The Association has intervened with the appropriate authorities on behalf of the victims of human rights violations. The number of such interventions was 167 in 64

countries in 1990; about 236 in 50 countries in 1991; 100 in 72 countries in 1992; and 90 in 43 countries in 1993.

5. It was invited to, and was represented by its members and affiliated associations, at many congresses, conferences, conventions, symposia, seminars and forums on the legal aspects of human rights, the rights of peoples, peace and disarmament, the right to development and the environment. At these meetings, the Association referred often to United Nations resolutions and stressed the essential role played by the United Nations in international relations. The number of these attendances was 54 in 1990; 84 in 1991; 58 in 1992; and 52 in 1993.

6. In 1990, IADL organized in Rome a roundtable on the democratic control of special services. In February 1993, in cooperation with the Association of Indian Lawyers, it arranged a conference on human rights and terrorism.

7. The Association has addressed several messages to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. They included a message designed to encourage the application of Security Council resolutions on Western Sahara.

Participation in UNESCO activities

1. The Association is an active member of the UNESCO Standing NGO Committee and attends its meetings. It participates in all UNESCO's activities.

2. It attends the sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board and of the UNESCO/NGO Joint Group.

3. It took part in the meetings on the United Nations Decade of International Law (resolution 44/23), on the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1991), on the Palestine question (protection of the cultural heritage of Jerusalem, education in occupied Palestinian territory), and on peace and the elimination of all forms of discrimination.

4. The Association has prepared a study on the applicability of the fourth Geneva convention concerning the Palestinian peoples in the occupied territories.

5. As a result of its initiative, the permanent representatives of the non-aligned countries to UNESCO launched an appeal for the conservation and protection of the cultural heritage of Iraq.

6. It participated in the Twenty-Sixth Annual UNESCO Conference. In Burundi, in 1992, it organized a training course in international law for African lawyers. In the UNESCO/NGO Joint Group, it spoke on the status of Iranian women, the influence on violence of the Seville Manifesto, on the worldwide rule of law, and on the concept of democracy in 1992.

7. It took part in the twenty-third NGO Conference and in the preparation and holding of the UNESCO International Conference on Education for Human Rights and Democracy (Montreal, 8-11 March 1993). An IADL representative was elected Vice-Chairman of that Conference. The Association participated in the United Nations seminar on assistance to th Palestinian peoples (26-29 April 1993).

Cooperation with UNHCR

Details are included in our activity reports.

Publications

The Association has published two numbers of the Revue de Droit Contemporain; activity reports for the years 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993; and mission reports on

Namibia (1990), on the human rights situation in Turkey (1991) and on traffic in children and organs.

PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROAD CONGRESSES

(Category II)

The Permanent International Association of Road Congresses was established in 1909, following the First International Road Congress held in Paris in 1908. It is the oldest international association dealing with roads and road technology.

Within the context of global transport policies, its aim is to promote international cooperation and to encourage progress in the formulation of road transport plans; the design, construction and maintenance of roads; and the management of road networks.

It is non-political and not for profit. In 1970, it was granted consultative status (category II) by the Economic and Social Council.

As of 31 December 1993, it comprised 72 member countries and more than 2,000 collective and individual members, spread over 100 countries. Representatives of member countries are at the top level in their national road administrations. Country members (or those who have renewed their membership) between 1989 and 1993 are: Romania, Thailand, Bangladesh, Guinea, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Croatia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, Honduras, and the Czech Republic.

The documents published at the world road congresses by the Association are a unique source of information for road specialists the world over. In September 1991, the Association held its Nineteenth World Road Congress at Marrakech (Morocco). The Twentieth will take place at Montreal (Canada) from 3 to 9 September 1995.

* * *

Under the auspices of the Association, for the period 1992-1995, 17 committees and working groups are scheduled to meet. They comprise 700 professionals from 45 countries. Some are expert missions working for the United Nations, the World Bank and so on. One working group has the special task of studying the measures to be taken to reduce the effects of natural disasters. It is doing so within the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction proclaimed by the United Nations for the period 1990-1999.

The representatives of the developing countries are able to take an active part in the Association's activities with the help of a special fund which is established. Member countries also directly sponsor representatives of developing countries.

A terminology committee is publishing a dictionary of road technology (English/French), supplemented by fascicles in other languages. Most of these are European, but also include Russian, Arabic, Japanese and Chinese. The sixth edition was published in 1990 with financial help from UNESCO. The Portuguese and Greek versions were published respectively in 1991 and 1992. A road lexicon was published in 1992 in English and French. It contains 12,000 terms and is available in computerized form. These publications are stored in DIRR, the OECD data base.

In 1993, the Association's Committee on Technological Exchanges and Development (C3) made preparations for the Founders' Conference of the "World Exchange Network" to be held in Casablanca in 1994. The network's aim is to facilitate the transfer of road technology between all countries. The Committee revised, completed and prepared for publication the Road Maintenance Manual. The first edition appeared in 1982 under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa. Designed for road-building supervisors, it will be published in English, French and Spanish. It will be disseminated free of charge to the developing countries. Finally, the Committee prepared (for publication in early 1994) a catalogue of training activities for developing countries. The catalogue is also distributed free in these countries.

The Association participates actively in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe in different fields such as the Highways Agreement and the Vienna Convention on Road Signs. Continuing its work on highways, the Association is now cooperating with the European Union, especially in traffic forecasting.

The Association's competence and neutrality are well recognized. In 1992 it organized an international discussion of road-surface-measuring equipment which may result in the issuance of international standards in this field.

In 1991 our Association established two new international Committees: C13, Road Security Committee and C14, Environment Committee.

All the other committees, however, remain responsible, each within its own field, for upholding the quality of life of those who use the roads and those who live near them. The task of the two new Committees is to prepare comments for the attention of the decision-makers.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (IFHR)

(Category II)

The International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR) is an international non-governmental organization for the protection and promotion of human rights guaranteed by international instruments, primarily the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Following its Turin Congress in 1992, the Federation has comprised 66 member organizations in 60 countries. They share the same mandate. At that Congress, it decided to resume its original name: Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme. This was considered to be more expressive of its aim, although the acronym was retained.

During the period 1990-1993, the Federation has developed its leadership of its network of organizations. It has improved its services to members in three ways:

(a) Protection: it has equipped on the average 30 international missions of enquiry, judicial observation and others, respecting scrupulously the criteria of independence, impartiality and objectivity for which it is celebrated;

(b) Cooperation: it has systematized its activities of juridical and judicial cooperation, which are aimed at creating international standards for human-rights activists and their partners;

(c) International representation: it has strengthened its permanent delegations to intergovernmental organizations, at the international and regional levels, in order to facilitate the use of their procedures by member organizations.

Its activities relating more specifically to the organs and procedures of the United Nations may be summarized as follows:

World Conference on Human Rights

Delegations from IFHR took part in the preparatory process for the World Conference on Human Rights, including the regional meetings (Tunis, San José, Bangkok) and the Conference itself (Vienna).

Commission on Human Rights and Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

During the period covered in this report, the Federation has sent delegations of 20-30 persons, active members of its member organizations, to all the Commission's sessions (46th-49th) and to all the Sub-Commission's (42nd-45th). At each of these sessions the Federation submitted on the average six oral statements and six written. Reports on the Federation's participation in these sessions, containing all the oral and written statements by the Federation and its member organizations, have been published.

Procedures for defending human rights within the context of the Commission on Human Rights

The Federation has regularly transmitted reports and complaints through special rapporteurs on summary or arbitrary executions, torture, religious intolerance, the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and the intolerance associated with it. It also has a working group dealing with forced disappearances and arbitrary detention.

Each year it transmits communications (4-6 depending on the year) under the procedure established under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVII).

The Federation has also submitted information under the resolutions of the Committee on Human Rights appointing eminent persons to investigate certain national situations.

Working Groups established by the Commission on Human Rights

The Federation has taken part in all the sessions (fifth: 17-26 January 1990; sixth: 16-25 January 1991; seventh: 13-24 January 1992; eighth: 18-29 January 1993) of the Working Group studying the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It has taken part in the meetings of the Working Group studying the Declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. These took place in 1990 (12-22 February) and 1991 (2-13 December). They resulted in the adoption by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/135 of the Declaration in question. The Federation's comments on it appear in document E/CN.4/1991/WG.10/WP.4 of the Working Group.

Studies by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

The Federation has regularly provided information for the Sub-Commission's studies. These include studies by Special Rapporteurs on States which have proclaimed, extended or abrogated a state of emergency; on the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights; on human rights and the environment; on the right to freedom of expression and opinion; on the right to a fair trail, on the question of impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations; on ways and means of facilitating the peaceful and constructive settlement of situations in which minorities are involved; on the measures to be taken to fight against racism and racial discrimination; and on the independence of the judiciary and the protection of lawyers in the exercise of their profession.

Working groups of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

During the four-year period covered in this report, the Federation has attended all the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and has submitted documents to it on a number of occasions.

It has also transmitted documents to the Working Group on contemporary forms of slavery at its eighteenth session.

Conventional organs

The Federation is striving to increase the ties between its member organizations and the conventional organs of the United Nations (Committee on Human Rights, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Committee on the Rights of the Child). During each of the sessions of these organs in the period covered by the report, it has made two or three statements, prepared by its member organizations on the question of governmental reports. On several occasions, it has coordinated the movements of delegations from its affiliated organizations attending these sessions so that they may meet directly with expert members of those bodies.

Commission on crime prevention and penal justice

The Federation has taken part in each session of this new commission.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS

(Category II)

Since its establishment in 1951, the Federation has sought the aims set out in its statutes: "To campaign actively to defend and ensure human freedom and dignity, against all racial and political discrimination ... and against the rebirth of fascism and nazism in all their forms; to remember piously and honour the martyrs of the Resistance ... to help achieve the objectives of the United Nations Charter ..."

The Federation now comprises 82 national associations from 29 countries (Europe, Israel, Canada). It has consultative status, category II, with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and category B with UNESCO. On 14 May 1992 it was granted NGO consultative status by the Council of Europe. It maintains friendly relations with many international non-governmental organizations, members of the Bureau of the NGO Conference, such as the World Veterans Federation (WVF), the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), the Church Commission for International Affairs, etc.

Participation in Economic and Social Council meetings and its subsidiary organs and in United Nations conferences

The Federation participates as far as it is able in the meetings of the CONGO bureau and has also taken part in:

(a) The Conference "Together for Peace - the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in a changing world", convened by CONGO (Geneva, 23-25 October 1990);

(b) The eighteenth CONGO General Assembly (Geneva, 23-31 October 1991);

(c) The first meeting of non-governmental organizations interested in the United Nations Summit for social development, organized by CONGO (Geneva, 13 September 1993).

Activities in the field of disarmament

The Federation is regularly represented in the meetings of the Special NGO Committee for Disarmament at Geneva. It takes an active part in this Committee's work and supports its resolutions and recommendations, including:

(a) Signature of the declaration by the NGO Special Committee for Disarmament (Geneva, 12 April 1990) "For an immediate halt to nuclear tests and the conclusion of a broad test-ban treaty";

(b) Declaration by the Federation addressed to the Fourth Study Conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held at Geneva from 20 August to 14 September 1990.

On the occasion of the forty-fifth anniversary of the Charter, the Federation submitted to the Special NGO Committee for Disarmament at Geneva (February 1990) a proposed message for parliaments and Governments "Invest in the future of humanity". This document was transmitted to all Committee members as an annex to the official record of the meeting. The Federation sent it to various United Nations organs and to the ambassadors of member States of CSCE accredited to Vienna.

It has taken part in a number of meetings on the problem of Palestine, in particular at Madrid (27-30 May 1991) and Valetta, Malta (4-6 December 1992).

Activities in the field of human rights

The Federation participates regularly in the work of the Special NGO Committee on Human Rights and follows closely the work of the Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization. It has taken part in different meetings and conferences dealing with the following problems:

(a) From 2-30 June 1990 at Copenhagen: NGO meetings parallel with the Conference on the Human Dimension of CSCE;

(b) On 9 December 1992 at Geneva: special meeting of the Special NGO Committee on Human Rights;

(c) From 10-12 June 1993 at Vienna: NGO Forum on Human Rights;

(d) From 14-25 June at Vienna: World Conference on Human Rights;

(e) From 15-17 September 1993 at Geneva: International NGO consultation on racism, xenophobia, ethnic and racial intolerance and the resulting conflicts.

Other activities

Message to the Cracovian Symposium on European cultural heritage (CSCE), held from 28 May to 7 June 1991, entitled "Problem of safeguarding Nazi concentration camps, high points of deportation".

In this context, participation in the meeting organized in parallel with the Symposium by the international committees concerned with the camps and representing association of former deportees, internees, and resistance fighters (Cracow, 31 May - 4 June 1991).

Activities of the Federation in conformity with the principles and documents of the United Nations

Concerning disarmament, peace and security:

(a) On 19 November 1990, address "For a more stable Europe in peace and democracy" to the Heads of State and Governments participating in the Summit Conference of CSCE in Paris;

(b) On 28 March 1992, address to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Helsinki, 24 March 1992.

The Federation's policy-making organs have also adopted a number of different resolutions and declarations, namely,

(a) On 24 February 1990, declaration "To consolidate peace, democracy, security and cooperation in Europe";

(b) On 1 December 1990, declaration "For a new Europe";

(c) On 26 June 1991, declaration "For a world with greater justice, greater freedom, greater solidarity and a more fraternal attitude";

(d) On 7 December 1991, "Encouraging initiatives", declaration on recent disarmament initiatives.

In their declarations and resolutions the Federation's policy-making organs have often stated that they favour an equitable and peaceful solution of the problems of the Middle East, including:

(a) On 8 September 1990, a resolution on the situation in the Arab-Persian Gulf;

(b) On 2 March 1991, declaration "For the reestablishment of peace and security in the Middle East";

(c) On 26 June 1991, resolution by the Congress of the Federation "Towards a peaceful solution of the problems of the Middle East";

(d) On 3 April 1993, motion "to the Governments of Israel, the Arab countries of the Middle East, and PLO";

(e) On 29 September 1993, declaration on the Israel-Palestinian Accord "An important step".

Together with the three other veterans' and war victims' organizations, the World Veterans' Federation (WVF), the European War Veterans' Confederation (CEAC) and the International Confederation of Former Prisoners of War (ICFPW), the International Federation of Resistance Movements is continuing the efforts undertaken to ensure a peaceful future in Europe and throughout the world.

These four international organizations have organized, in association with the international committees concerned with Nazi concentration camps, an international meeting for peace, disarmament, mutual confidence and cooperation. It took place in Moscow from 10-11 May 1990.

In the face of the deteriorating situation in the formerly Yugoslav countries, a "listening mission" was formed from these four organizations. From 26 to 31 October 1992 it visited Croatia and Slovenia. From 24 to 28 November 1992 it visited the Federal Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Its aim was to meet on the spot with leaders of veterans' associations and resistance movements and other officials. A further aim was to look into legal questions and the possibility of achieving a peaceful and equitable solution for all the parties concerned.

The representatives of the four organizations adopted a recommendation to the effect that all the humanitarian convoys in the formerly Yugoslav countries should circulate freely.

For their part, the policy-making bodies of the Federation adopted the following declarations:

(a) On 22 August 1992, declaration "Towards the respect for human rights and minorities in former Yugoslavia";

(b) On 3 April 1993, declaration "On the situation in former Yugoslavia".

Activities in favour of human rights

The Federation and its policy-making bodies are very concerned at the outbreak of neofascist, racist and xenophobic behaviour in a growing number of European countries. On different occasions, it has expressed these concerns to the FRG authorities and the formerly socialist countries (Bulgaria, Ukraine, Lithuania, etc.). A number of documents denouncing these attitudes have been adopted:

(a) On 7 December 1991, declaration "The Federation's policy towards xenophobia, racial hatred and neonazi terror";

(b) On 7 September 1992, declaration "The Federation's concern at terrorist acts by the extreme right";

(c) On 30 November 1992, declaration "Everything must be done to stop xenophobic and antisemitic violence";

(d) On 3 April 199, motion.

The Federation participates regularly in the NGO/UNESCO Permanent Working Group "Education for the promotion and defence of human rights, Education against racism and apartheid, Education for Peace".

It also has a permanent representative who attends the sectoral meetings of the Council of Europe devoted to "Human rights questions".

UNITED TOWNS ORGANIZATION (UTO)

(Category I)

The United Towns Organization (UTO) is an international organization with local and regional powers. It has about 2,000 members in nearly 100 countries. It is particularly active in Europe (East and West), Africa, the Mediterranean basin, Latin America and Asia.

Since its establishment in 1957, UTO has maintained relations of consultation and cooperation with international institutions, both regional and worldwide. It has been granted category I consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, UNESCO and the Council of Europe.

Its initiatives are designed to promote democracy and local autonomy, to defend human rights and peace, and to encourage cooperation and solidarity between territorial communities belonging to different regions of the world.

For this purpose, UTO is developing exchanges between communities and mobilizes their efforts to achieve economic and social progress.

In the North/South cooperation sector, it is concerned with a number of twinning and cooperation activities. It carries on operations from town to town, organizes technical exchanges and training sessions and establishes networks which allow the dissemination of experience and the implementation of cooperation programmes.

In town-twinning, UTO emphasizes exchanges of experience affecting all the aspects of community life: social policy, economic development, town management, support for grass-roots policies, especially those affecting the environment.

Since its last report to the Council, UTO has increased the number of its national committees. These are support associations for the networks of member towns in the different countries. The increase has affected in particular the Central European and Eastern European countries.

UTO played a very active role in the preparation of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development which took place at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. Together with three other international associations (World Cities' Summit, Metropolis and the International Union of Local Highways) it was responsible for mobilizing towns within the context of the Conference on Environment and Development. For the benefit of the Conference, a joint statement on towns was prepared and transmitted to Mr. Strong on 15 January 1992.

The United Towns Organization took part in the Preparatory Committee in March 1992 in New York and was represented at the Conference by its President, its Secretary-General and a strong delegation of local representatives.

It sent two observers to a part of the discussions of the Commission on Sustainable Development in June 1993.

Together with the three other associations already mentioned, it prepared a document on the application of Chapter 7 of Agenda 21, for submission to the Commission in May 1994 in New York.

The organization sent an observer to the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, June 1993).

In 1993, the specialized branch of UTO for decentralized cooperation, Cites Unies Developpement, received the Habitat Scroll of Honour from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements on the occasion of World Habitat Day.

In 1993 this same specialized branch initiated working relations with FENU, which were continued in 1994; in 1991 it defined and launched the Medcites network within the framework of cooperation with the METAP programme (World Bank, ECC, BEI and UNDP).

The organization is working with UNDP on a number of its programmes: for example, in Latin America and Central America in the PRODERE programme established by UNDP.

It has developed its relations with the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development with a view to preparing the World Summit for Social Development (March 1995). It is cooperating with UNDP in the organization of the International Mayors' Symposium on Social Development in New York (August 1994).

It has increased its cooperation with the Conference on Environment and Development (exchange of correspondence with Mrs. E. Dowdswell, Under-Secretary-General and talks in Paris with Mr. J. Wilheim, Under-Secretary-General) in the context of preparations for HABITAT II in Istanbul in June 1996.

With its three other main grass-roots associations, UTO decided to establish a common operating structure. It would form the secretariat. The aims would be to disseminate information derived from HABITAT II, to coordinate activities, to direct preparations for the Conference and to assist the United Nations in the mobilization of towns.

The organization helps to disseminate, among its members, United Nations documents (mobilization campaigns, such as those conducted at the time of the Conference on Environment and Development). It is also committed to the implementation of United Nations policies (projects and programmes for the follow-up of Agenda 21 adopted at the Rio Summit).

As stated above, UTO will work closely with the HABITAT II secretariat in the preparation of the Istanbul Conference.

The United Nations Secretary-General has had talks with the President of UTO, Mr. Jorge Sampaio, Mayor of Lisbon. These have been concerned inter alia with the mobilization of local communities during HABITAT II.

The United Nations was represented at the last UTO World Congress in April 1994 by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Paris, who transmitted a message from Mr. Boutros-Boutros Ghali.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE

(Category II)

The aim of the International Institute for the Prevention of Drug Abuse is to participate in international action to combat drug abuse and to reduce the demand for drugs inter alia by training special trainers; by making national and regional authorities aware of the problem; by evaluating needs and the means to satisfy them; and by helping national non-governmental organizations engaged in the struggle against drug abuse. The Institute was founded in 1985 and has grown ever since. Originally, it was based on the continent of Africa. Then it spread to Asia (India, Vietnam, Thailand, etc.) and South America (Andean Pact countries, Brazil).

Its resources are drawn partly from its members' subscriptions and private donations and partly are directly linked to programmes and major contributors such as:

(a) Commission of European Communities (Brussels);

(b) United Nations International Drug Control Programme (Vienna);

(c) French Government Ministry of Cooperation;

(d) French Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

(e) Secretariat of State in the Office of the Prime Minister responsible for humanitarian activities;

(f) Youth Drug Prevention Foundation.

Activities, 1990

Africa

Yaoundé (Cameroon): regional seminar for personnel engaged in the campaign against drugs from 11 French- and English-speaking States of Western and Central Africa

Abidjan: seminar for social workers under the jurisdiction of different Ivorian ministries (20)

Production of the Institute's fourth film on drug prevention: Le dernier voyage, in Cameroon, on the consumption of stimulants by drivers

Production of information cards for wide distribution

Production of teaching kits, including video films, slides, documents and instructions for personnel engaged in field action in Africa

Launching of the Institute's "Letter", published in French and English and designed to serve as an instrument of communication for all our correspondents in the field (800 copies)

Reports of epidemiological studies carried out in preceding years in Mali, Senegal, Kenya and Zimbabwe

Training activities in Mauritius: training courses, provision of documents, dissemination of film Sens interdit

Eastern Europe

Exploratory missions in the Czech Republic and Hungary

At the request of Solidarnosc, dispatch of an evaluation mission on drug addiction problems; initiation of an assistance programme

South America

Sending to the European Drug Control Centre of an expert to establish a pilot programme of cooperation between the Andean Pact countries

Evaluation mission to Colombia and launching of an assistance programme

Activities 1991

Africa

Meeting of the Institute's Scientific Council grouping African experts from 14 countries: evaluation of activities undertaken by the Institute since its establishment and definition of future priorities

Ivory Coast: mission to prepare 1992 training activities

Kenya: meeting of local non-governmental organizations and definition of cooperation needs

Mauritius: training workshop on programme evaluation and preventive actions for 30 social workers; reception of 3 trainees (2-month courses) in France; epidemiological research; production of a video Que faire for public release

South America

Continuation and conclusion of assistance programme in Colombia begun in 1991

Follow-up of expert mission to the Andean Pact cooperation programme

Asia

Initiation of an Italian programme (Bombay) in cooperation with a local non-governmental organization, National Addiction Research Centre; assistance in the establishment of a treatment centre and development of a national documentation service

Exploratory mission to Viet Nam

Activities, 1992

Africa: regional activities

Training seminar for administrative staff responsible for the anti-drug campaign, Mauritius, 16-27 March; 60 participants from 14 West African countries

Initiation of a communication network for the whole of Africa: identification of the 300 correspondents involved; launching of the quarterly news bulletin "Cuari-Cowrie"; organization of South-South meetings

Africa: national activities

Côte d'Ivoire: organization of a training course for social workers; participation of trainers from the Institute in a PNUCID seminar (Abidjan); assistance to training programme at Daloa

Senegal: evaluation seminar on activities in Senegal during the last five years

Burundi: identification mission for South-South needs and meetings; initiation of an information-gathering mission with a view to an epidemiological study

Congo: launching of a preventive programme, 1993

Rwanda: establishment of a communication network

Kenya: mission to evaluate needs, conduct of an epidemiological survey, production of an audio-video

Mauritius: organization of a training workshop (20 social workers), epidemiological survey, 2 audio-videos, courses in France

Madagascar, Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Niger: Mission to evaluate needs

Eastern Europe

Hungary: Organization of a seminar (Budapest) for doctors dealing with drug addicts; psychiatric and psychological courses in France

Poland: Mission to evaluate needs

Asia

India: Continuation of programme begun in 1991: equipment of a treatment centre, establishment of a documentation centre, publication of a manual in Hindi

Hindi: Mission to evaluate needs; material aid to Hanoi centre

South America

Continuation of programme of cooperation with Andean Pact countries; meeting of all correspondents in Caracas; organization of 15 regional courses

Activities 1993

Africa: regional activities

Training seminar for 20 African psychiatrists (from 15 African States) from 13 to 20 December 1993 at Cotonou (Benin) on the subject "How to deal with drug addiction in Africa"

Second phase of the communication network over the whole of Africa: file of 600 correspondents involved; news bulletin "Cauri-Cowrie", organization of South-South training courses

Africa: national activities

Kenya: organization of two training workshops (20 persons per workshop); duplication and dissemination of 1992 video (150 copies); preparation and dissemination of primary prevention document designed for teachers (10,000 copies)

Gambia: establishment of network and evaluation of needs

Mauritius: initiation of 1994 activities

Zambia: establishment of network and evaluation of needs

Zimbabwe: exploratory mission

Chad: exploratory mission

Burkina Faso: training workshop

Eastern Europe

Hungary: participation in a regional seminar

Asia

India: continuation of programme begun in 1991: equipment of treatment centre, establishment of a documentation centre, publication of a manual in Hindi

Thailand: implementation of a programme including four non-governmental organization meetings, material aid to treatment centres, publication of a prevention manual in Thai, a song competition on the subject of prevention

Viet Nam: Implementation of the 1994/1995 programme

South America

Completion of the programme of cooperation with the Andean Pact countries; meeting of all correspondents in Brussels; organization of 10 training courses in Europe

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR FRATERNAL UNION AMONG RACES AND PEOPLES

(Category II)

The International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples is a federation of groups and persons working to promote understanding, dialogue and cooperation between races, peoples and cultural groups, in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Movement aims to encourage not only its members but also those people among whom and with whom these members work and live, so as to establish a greater solidarity between peoples and cultures.

As in the past, the Movement has tried to publicize the whole of the United Nations and to increase its participation in the activities of certain groups and subgroups, mainly in the fields in which the Movement is committed.

Human Rights

Commission on Human Rights and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

The Movement participates regularly in the work of the Commission and Subcommission. In their written and oral statements, our representatives have dealt mainly with the following points:

(a) Violations of human rights in southern Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Angola, Sudan, Afghanistan, Zaire and Somalia;

(b) Economic, social and cultural rights;

(c) Rights of persons subjected to any form of detention, imprisonment or torture;

(d) Forced or involuntary disappearances: disappearances of children in Argentina;

(e) Violation of the rights of indigenous peoples;

(f) Violation of the rights of women and children;

(g) Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children;

(h) Protection and assistance to be given to women and children who are refugees or displaced;

(i) Violation of the right to self-determination of the Armenian people of Nagornakarabagh.

In cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Movement is working to safeguard the rights of deputies throughout the world. For example, it is opposing the violation of deputies' rights in Togo, Equatorial Guinea and Zaire. It is continuing to defend other cases. It is very active in the fight against racism, xenophobia and ethnic and racial discrimination in the context of the Decade proclaimed for that purpose. With other organizations, it is organizing meetings on this topic at Geneva and elsewhere.

The Movement has taken part in the Panafrican Conference on democracy and the mastery of transition in Africa. Our representatives spoke on political pluralism, trade-union pluralism, pluralism in the media, respect for human rights and democratic alternance.

World Conference on Human Rights

In June 1993, the Movement was well represented at this important Conference. The presence of women was visible and effective both at the Conference and the NGO Forum.

The Movement took part in the joint coordination committee which prepared for the World Conference on Human Rights. The committee's task was to obtain funds for the attendance at Vienna of national and international non-governmental organizations concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights. It organized an NGO Forum held two days before the Conference.

The Movement participated in four preparatory conferences before the World Conference. It attended the African regional preparatory conference before the Tunis conference and the World Conference itself.

A representative of the Movement addressed the plenary Conference on the problem of female genital mutilation. Such mutilations are a violation of the principles laid down in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Convention on the Rights of the Child stresses the need to take action against practices which endanger the health of children.

At the World Conference, another representative took part in informal discussions of a specific aspect of human rights: "the right to health".

The Movement takes part in meetings on women's rights both at the United Nations and with other non-governmental organizations. It is very interested in the problem of the "traffic in women".

Consultations with the United Nations Secretariat

The representatives of the Movement in New York and Geneva regularly consult the officials responsible for relations with non-governmental organizations in those two centres in order to improve the effectiveness of their cooperation with the United Nations. They also participate regularly in exchanges with officials of the Human Rights Division, HCR, the Centre against Apartheid, UNICEF, UNDP, etc.

Participation in the activities of the NGO Conference (CONGO)

The Movement has been a member of CONGO for many years and has been a member of the Bureau since September 1988.

It has taken part in joint undertakings to promote certain United Nations activities or to carry out resolutions adopted by its organs. It keeps its members informed of these undertakings by a liaison bulletin.

It is a member of the NGO Subcommittee on the Status of Women; the Special NGO Committee on Human Rights; the NGO Subcommittee on Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization.

The regrouping of non-governmental organizations with common interests to further the aims of the United Nations can only improve such cooperation. The Movement participates actively in these efforts.

It also has consultative status with UNICEF and UNESCO.

It intends to continue its efforts to promote the principles of the Charter with all the means at its disposal.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF EDUCATION

(Category II)

Aim

As indicated in its statutes the organization's priority tasks are:

(a) To help Governments to adopt their educational policy to the principles of the freedom of education set forth in international instruments, particularly the Charter of Human Rights;

(b) To cooperate with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other international organizations in the development and protection of educational and cultural freedoms.

During the period covered by this report, individuals and corporate bodies from 10 new countries have become members of our organization. They come from Africa, the Americas and Central and Eastern Europe.

Participation in the subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council

From 1990 to 1993 the organization has been an observer at the Commission on Human Rights. Its representatives have spoken on the following subjects: freedom of expression and opinion, rights of minorities, implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, achievement of economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development and the rights of the child. Some of these oral statements were made in cooperation with other non-governmental organizations, including Entraide Universitaire Mondiale, the World Movement of Mothers and PRODEFA.

The organization submitted two written statements. The first, at the forty-ninth session, concerned the right to development. The second was written in conjunction with six other non-governmental organizations and submitted to the fiftieth session. It dealt with the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion and Belief.

From 1991 to 1993 the organization was represented by observers at the sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. They spoke on: freedom of opinion and expression; implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion and Belief; and the achievement of economic, social and cultural rights.

Together with four other non-governmental organizations the organization prepared a written statement for submission to the Subcommission at its forty-fifth session.

It took part in the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna. Its representative spoke in the plenary meeting of 16 June in association with 15 other non-governmental organizations. It played an active role in the work of the preparatory committees. It submitted a written statement on the provisional agenda of the third session.

Since 1990 it has followed closely the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In 1990 it submitted to that Committee a note on the freedom of education in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In 1993 it submitted a working paper during the general debate on the right to health.

Cooperation with the programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies

The organization works closely with UNESCO. It maintains relations of information and consultation with that agency and has been placed in category II. It took part in international education conferences between 1990 and 1992. At the last session the representative of the organization spoke in the plenary.

In 1993 it submitted to UNESCO a report on possible measures to improve the effectiveness of the Convention against Discrimination in the Field of Education. It helped to publicize the World Declaration "Education for All", adopted at Jomtien in 1990.

Other activities

Our work is based on the Charter of Human Rights and the instruments adopted by the United Nations in the field of human rights. We carry out all our activities in the spirit of these international instruments.

During the period under review we have also disseminated international documents on the freedom of information in French, English and Spanish.

In 1991, at the request of the secretariat of the World Conference, we submitted recommendations to the Conference in accordance with resolution 45/155, paragraph 10.

In December 1992 we took part in a seminar on indicators of economic, social and cultural rights organized by the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva.

That same month, we organized a symposium entitled "What democracy for the developing countries?" We received advice from the International Institute for Democracy. The basic theme was pluralism in politics, education and the media, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of Human Rights.

Finally, in 1993, our organization established an interdisciplinary group of experts to study freedom of education in international instruments, particularly the Charter of Human Rights.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS

The International Union has noted that new types of poverty and exclusion have arisen in all societies. At the same time, we still face situations of dependency and breakdown, violence and war. As a result, many families cannot function properly and are unable to cope with these problems. The Union therefore considers it necessary and urgent to initiate a new debate on the role, capacities and responsibilities of the family in a changing world. It has been committed to encouraging its Governments and member non-governmental organizations to advocate the celebration of the International Year of the Family (1994). Since the Year's adoption in 1989 by the United Nations, the Union reaffirms its leadership and its commitment to the preparation, celebration and follow-up of the International Year. In 1991 the Union set up a strategy committee to make plans for the celebration, to follow the preparations and to see them carried out. The Union is involved in four spheres of activity: major world conferences on the social, economic, cultural and political rights of families; programmes for the regions of the Union; projects to be carried out by the scientific committees of the Union; and political recommendations within the framework of international and regional representations. A number of important conferences have been held: global family policy and family rights at present and in the future (Moscow, October 1990); social rights of families (Warsaw, March 1992); economic rights of families (Curitba, November 1992); cultural rights of families (Cairo, September 1993). The final world conference on the political rights of families will be held in Paris in December 1994. The Union is also participating in all the preparatory meetings for the International Year of the Family convened by the United Nations.

In its preparatory plan for the International Year, the Union's priority objective is the elaboration of a declaration on family rights. All the regions and structures of the Union are engaged in this plan. The draft submitted to, and approved by the Cairo assembly in 1993, expresses the diversity and the cultural, ideological and religious plurality of all the families represented. It reflects the solidarity of all the members of the Union as regards family values. The draft received its final endorsement at a meeting of the General Council in Paris in February 1994. It will be proclaimed at the Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held at the Elysséé, Paris, on 14 December 1994 in the presence of the President of the French Republic and the United Nations Secretary-General. This event will close the activities of the Year.

In 1993 an international committee of solidarity with troubled families was established with the aim of contacting families affected by ecological, natural, social and other disasters. It is coordinated by Morocco, Canada and Algeria. The Union is also dealing with the different war situations which seriously affect families. It is employing the national and international representatives to emphasize the rights of these families to justice and peace. For this purpose, it is taking all the necessary political and diplomatic action. It has disseminated and brought to the attention of the highest international regional and national bodies a number of messages expressing peace and solidarity with families who have been the victims of violence.

Support for the purposes and principles of the United Nations

Being in category I, and with the approach of the International Family Year, the Union feels it must invest a large part of its human and material resources in its representations to the United Nations system. It has permanent representatives in both New York and Geneva.

The President of the Union was one of the first to receive the diploma of recognition given by the United Nations Secretariat for the International Year of the Family as a tribute to her exemplary support for the United Nations programme for the Year.

NGO Conference (CONGO)

At the meeting of the Bureau of CONGO held in New York on 3 March 1992, a representative of the Union was elected Vice-Chairman for the next three years. She took part in all the meetings in New York, Geneva and Vienna, including the round tables on the dynamics of international non-governmental organizations.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Union's permanent representative participates regularly in the FAO Council and Conference. At each meeting, he reports on the Union's activities, its conferences and its work with the United Nations.

United Nations Population Fund (UNPF)

The Union helped to prepare for the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 5-13 September 1994. It participated in three regional conferences: at Geneva, March 1993; at Ammen, April 1993; and at Mexico City, May 1993. It attended PrepCom III in New York, April 1994. It is a member of the Conference planning committee and of the NGO Task Force.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The Union maintains very close official relations with ILO and is represented at every International Labour Conference. The Deputy Director General of ILO made an introductory statement at the Union's Conference "The economic rights of families" held in Brazil in November 1992.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The Union assists WHO, at the consultative level, in order to improve the visibility, efficacy and coherence of WHO health policy, especially as regards families. It has taken an active role for many years in major WHO events, such as the implementation of an AIDS project for children.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Union obtained a reclassification to category A in 1993. It has been associated with the elaboration and implementation of UNESCO family programmes and supports the agency's activities through its worldwide network of members. The Union's permanent representative is Chairman of the NGO Family Group at UNESCO. A conference entitled "Literacy, new apprenticeship for development" was organized by the Union in association with the Angolan Government and UNESCO. It took place at Luanda, 14-17 August 1990. The Deputy Director General of UNESCO made an introductory statement at the Union's world conference on "Cultural rights of families" held at Cairo, 22-26 September 1993.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Since the signature by the two parties of the Declaration of Solidarity in Paris on 18 January 1986, a permanent representative has enabled the Union to participate in UNICEF activities. In a sustained manner, it helps to promote the formulation of national policies for the benefit of children and the conception of programmes designed to respond to their needs and aspirations.

Support for the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

The Union has strengthened its cooperation with a large range of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with a view to engaging in joint activities which respond to family needs and enhance their status. It has worked together with the following organizations:

(a) The Council of Europe: permanent cooperation;

(b) League of Arab States: signature of a cooperation protocol, Cairo, 26 September 1993; elaboration of Arab Family Charter;

(c) Organization of African Unity: sustained relations;

(d) Organization of American States: cooperation protocol envisaged;

(e) ATD - Fourth World: the President of the Union is a member of the Organizing Committee of the World Day for the rejection of poverty, 17 October of each year;

(f) International Children's Centre: permanent cooperation and field projects;

(g) International Catholic Children's Bureau: permanent cooperation;

(h) Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: draft cooperation agreement being discussed;

(i) NGO family committee, Vienna: a Union representative is Secretary of this committee;

(j) Working group on the family of the permanent NGO committee of UNESCO: a Union representative is Chairman of the Group and submitted a report to the United Nations General Assembly at a special meeting to launch the International Year of the Family on 7 December 1993, in New York.

Activities and programmes

The Union is redoubling its efforts to ensure that millions of families benefit from its practical achievements. Its aims are threefold: to influence legislation, to promote services and initiate NGO action. Its specialized committees cover all its fields of competence and are regularly associated with all stages of the planning and execution of their activities.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LATIN NOTARIES

(Category II)

The International Union of Latin Notaries was founded in 1948. Its initial activities date back to its first international congress in 1950. It is an international non-governmental organization consisting of volunteers who represent national associations of notaries from countries where this profession exists.

Its task is to promote, coordinate and develop notarial activity in the international field. It seeks to ensure, by means of closer cooperation between notaries, their dignity and independence, and thus improve their services to individuals and communities.

In order to fulfil this mission, the Union has set itself the following objectives:

(a) To represent notaries at the international level;

(b) To cooperate with international bodies like the United Nations, UNESCO, the Conference of the Hague, Council of Europe, etc.

(c) To study and analyse notarial law as an instrument for guaranteeing contractual freedom and juridical security and to help coordinate such activity between the different countries;

(d) To establish and maintain contacts with developing notarial organizations and with notaries of countries which have no notarial organization;

(e) To publish and disseminate legal studies and an international review.

In May 1978, the International Union of Latin Notaries was recognized as a non-governmental organization (category II) by the Economic and Social Council.

Basic criteria

During the period 1990-1993, the Union has fulfilled all the basic criteria for qualification as a category II NGO. Indeed, it has strengthened these criteria, especially as regards: its activity, its purposes, its representative character, its international reputation, its constitution, its structure and organization, its resources, its affiliations and its policy.

Representativity

Since our last quadrennial report, the number of notarial organizations members of the International Union has risen from 42 to 50 countries. In other words, it is a highly representative body at the international level. Other organizations have joined since 1993.

This expansion has occurred mainly in Africa. Notarial organizations from Russia, Estonia and Lithuania have applied for membership. Requests from Ukraine, Croatia, Slovenia, Guinea and Panama are imminent. The Union maintains close relations with a number of other organizations in China, Viet Nam, Seychelles, Algeria, Albania, Cuba, etc.

Congresses

The Union holds an international congress every three years. During the period covered by this report, a single congress was held - in Cartagena, in May 1992. The

Union showed its support for United Nations environmental programmes by choosing as one of the themes for this congress "The protection of the environment and notarial practice". Notaries from many countries produced a large number of documents, which were disseminated mainly in the Union's member countries. This initiative awakened considerable interest in this subject and, more particularly, for the study and development of environmental law.

The next congress will be held in Berlin in May 1995. The subjects for discussion have already been announced and scientific research has begun. One of these subjects if "Modern procreative medicine and its influence on family and succession law". This question is one of the concerns of UNESCO and has been discussed by its working group "Science and ethnics".

Representation with international bodies

The Union is well represented in international bodies. It has representatives with the United Nations (New York, Geneva and Vienna), with FAO, UNESCO, the Hague Conference on International Private Law, Unidroit and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It maintains constant relations with the International Union of Lawyers, the International Union of Judges, the International Bar Association and the International Association of Young Lawyers.

The Union has representatives with European organizations such as the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Mortgage Federation and the Law Societies Association. It is also linked to American bodies such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Andean Pact, MERCOSUR, the Interamerican Integration Association and the Central American Parliament.

Assistance to the United Nations

The International Union has cooperated loyally in the work of the United Nations through the participation of its representatives in the different bodies of the Organization. This cooperation has been centred in Europe, especially Geneva. It has followed assiduously the activities of the Commission on Human Rights and has also been represented in Vienna. From 10 to 25 June 1993, a top-level delegation took an active part in the World Conference on Human Rights and submitted proposals for practical cooperation. During the period under review, our New York representative attended the meetings of the Annual NGO Conference and certain working groups.

Our representative to UNESCO participated actively in the General Conference. He submitted a communication to the one held in November 1993. He attended the meetings of the permanent NGO committee. He is also an active member of the UNESCO working group "Science and ethnics" and attended all its meetings.

The Union was represented by an observer at FAO. He belonged to the ad hoc group responsible for coordinating the joint support activities in the different sectors of FAO. He helped to draft a report submitted to the Twenty-Seventh Conference.

One of the highlights of this period was the meeting at Geneva in September 1993 between the Chairman of the International Union and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. They developed the purposes for specific cooperation activities put forward by the Union. The first of these would be a symposium on human rights to be held at Vichy in October 1995. Another highlight was the meeting with the High Commissioner for Refugees. They discussed the preparation of a cooperation protocol between the Union and UNHCR. The protocol was officially signed at Vienna in February 1994. More details will be forthcoming in our next quadrennial report.

Miscellaneous

The Union and its members organize many symposia, seminars and congresses at the regional and national level. They discuss legal, economic and social questions concerned with the defence of human rights, such as the protection of weak parties, consumers, children, the family, the environment and so on.